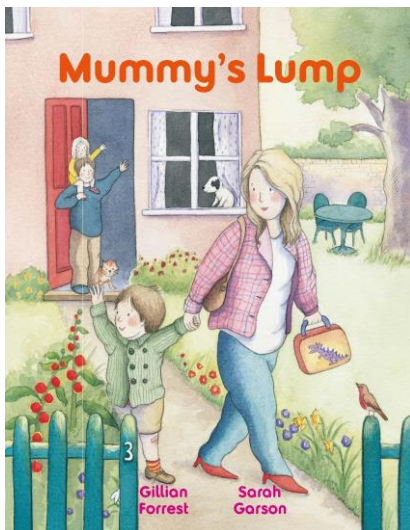


**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

BOOK REVIEWS

Read what people affected by cancer think about...



Mummy's lump (2015)

Forrest G, Garson S.

London: Breast Cancer Care, 2015.

20pp.

Free. Postage charged on large orders.

**Macmillan Cancer Support
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London SE1 7UQ**

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This is such a lovely book. It looks warm and inviting book and has the appearance of any other picture book. Using simple language and illustrations to encourage discussion, it is an ideal way to explain what could happen when someone has breast cancer. It could be used before, during and after treatment. The advice to parents at the front could also be very useful.

I love this book. It is warm, sympathetic to the topic and simple to understand. As an ex teacher, I would have had this on my classroom bookshelf to share with any child at any time as well as when needed. The illustrations encourage discussion and are easy to understand and interpret in relation to the text. It does show a nice middle-class family who appear to live the dream, but hey, cancer can affect anyone, and the treatment can be the same and what is more important is that it shows warmth and security. This is very important to a young child who is experiencing this.

Living with cancer (myelodysplastic syndrome) (46-55) (July 2017)

This beautiful and thoughtfully presented book could be used at any stage by any adult caring for young children, but only with parental consent.

The information is exactly right for very young children. It is a very gentle approach, totally in line with children's books for this age group. The story is told in the typical manner of a book designed to help small children understand a difficult issue – with understanding and compassion. The language is beautifully adapted to present this difficult topic in a most acceptable and gentle way that will alleviate fear and anxiety. The illustrations are equally gentle and so attractive and reassuring. I love the warmth and family love and protection that are depicted through the pictures.

Retired teacher and kidney cancer survivor (66-75) (September 2015)

The following reviews of the first edition (2008) were written before we introduced a star rating system.

An excellent book. A simple, easy way to tell younger members of the family what is happening to mum.

Relative of breast cancer patients (56-65) (May 2009)

Overall, a brilliant book. It is very interesting and it is easy for a child to understand. It looks good for children and parents.

Carer (26-35) (January 2009)

A simple, factual resource with appealing pictures, good for explaining cancer to children. However, it is suitable for only a minority of children, i.e. white, middle class and with both parents living together.

Counsellor/paediatric nurse (36-45) (October 2008)

This has the same feel as many children's picture books and will appeal to a young child. It's written in just the right tone and with the right amount of simple explanation. Diagnosis and treatment is explained gently and simply. Any bits that don't apply can be left out without affecting the story, e.g. if you're not having radiotherapy, just skip those pages. The stress that treatment causes in the family is acknowledged; dad is sometimes not his usual self because he's worried. The book also reassures children that they are still important – although mum's poorly she likes to give them a cuddle.

Breast cancer patient (46-55) (September 2008)

This is a good starting point to open a discussion and it covers most aspects of treatment. It is written in a way that says, OK, this is what happens then we'll be OK, which is what children need to hear. There is not too much information to take in and it is good for going back to at different stages of treatment to say look, this is what happened to Jack and Elly's mum too. I wish it had been around when I was diagnosed. My seven-year-old daughter also thought it was very good.

Breast cancer patient (36-45) (September 2008)

This is suitable for very young children (under six or seven years). It will reassure them and help other adults explain what is going on. My only concern is that it is based on a traditional family and that this may limit its usefulness. It assumes that grandparents are around to help, and that mummy doesn't work.

Breast cancer patient (36-45) (September 2008)

Nice illustrations accompany this story, which is presented in a calm, sensitive and non-threatening way. My six-year-old understood most of the language but he had been through cancer treatment himself. I'm not sure if other young children would understand it. The story does not cover an unfavourable outcome of the illness and treatment and potential death of a parent/carer.

Parent of a child who had cancer (26-35) (August 2008)

A wonderful book; it is very easy for young children to understand and they will relate to the characters. I have known children think that they must have done something wrong for mummy to be poorly and this is a lovely way of showing them it's not their fault, that it's okay to be sad or angry, and adults have the same feelings. It is very appealing, particularly the illustrations, which bring humour to the situation (dad dealing with the washing!). It deals with the issues in a simple, straightforward way.

Relative of breast cancer patient (26-35) (August 2008)

This gentle book sensitively explains cancer and its treatment. I like the reassurance it gives a child. It explains how cancer can't be caught, how no one is responsible for mummy becoming ill and how daddy might be short tempered. It looks like any child's book. I like the picture of mummy putting on her lipstick. She still wants to look pretty, which is a positive message. I especially like the mention of mummy being taken good care of in hospital. This is something that would have troubled me as a child.

Carer (26-35) (August 2008)

I wish I'd had a copy of this book when I was diagnosed last year. I struggled to explain it to my six-year-old in a way she could understand, without frightening her. It describes the journey simply and in a matter-of-fact but reassuring way. It makes it clear that it is not in any way the children's fault. The language is spot on (a glossary might be useful for older children). The pictures are lovely, especially those of dad looking after the children and the parents hugging in the background. The ending is clever and well thought out. It is upbeat but doesn't say that everything is fine or that everyone lives happily ever after or that the outcome is always successful.

My daughter's first words were "Is that a new book for me?" My elder daughter (just off to study English literature at university) also thought it a well written, beautifully illustrated book.

Breast cancer patient (36-45) (August 2008)

This is easy to follow, and not too wordy. It gets the main points over in a concise manner. It is well thought out and the illustrations are very good, particularly the picture when daddy is left in charge.

Breast cancer patient (36-45) (August 2008)

One of the strengths of this book is that it looks like a “real” book! It is attractive, well laid out with lovely illustrations and just the right amount of text for the target age range. There is a lot to share and talk about.

It touches on some important issues as well as treatment; for example, that you cannot catch cancer, that it is not anyone’s fault and how all the family and their routines are affected. The timescale is not explicit in the text but is obvious in the illustrations as they go through the seasons. An adult might need to help a child understand that it all takes a long time! The introduction has some useful ideas about how to use the book. As a primary school teacher and past cancer patient I would definitely use this resource and recommend it to parents faced with this situation.

Former breast cancer patient (36-45) (August 2008)

This delightful little gem of a book does much to dispel myths and fears. It is a superb source of information for the young reader, as it seeks to reassure and inform on a need-to-know basis. The pictures and accompanying text do much to convey a sense of normality and continued daily routine at a time of great change. It says so much without saying too much. It is an upbeat and invaluable tool for those with cancer and young children and those who work with children. I would go as far as to say that it should be made widely available to social workers and GPs as well as to parents with cancer who have young children. In fact, to any parent with cancer and inquisitive young children I would say “don’t leave home without it!”

Breast cancer patient (46-55) (August 2008)

This lovely book is beautifully illustrated and written and clearly explains breast cancer and the effects of treatment. A wonderful resource for a young family. It makes it clear that cancer isn’t anybody’s fault and it hasn’t happened because the child has been naughty or cross – it is so important to let children know this.

I believe that most people having a lumpectomy are day patients and don’t stay overnight unless there are problems. If the book is to include mastectomies it should have a page covering this specifically and include topics such as wearing a false in your bra. I also wonder about single parents with no family around to support them. This book rightly shows a family supporting each other through a difficult time, but it isn’t as easy for single parents.

Breast cancer survivor, 46-55 (July 2008)

This book would be a blessing to any family going through breast cancer. I found it very emotional and difficult to explain terminal lung cancer to my son and would have found this kind of book very helpful. It would also be a valuable resource for anyone in contact with a young child whose mum has breast cancer; it could also be useful for nursery or primary school teachers to use as an education tool.

Carer, 26-35 (July 2008)

Further information

Why does Macmillan Cancer Support review books?

We use reviews to help us compile a list of suggested cancer books, the [Macmillan Core Book List](#). Cancer information centres and public libraries can use this list to select appropriate and relevant books for people affected by cancer.

We add reviews to the [Directory of information materials for people affected by cancer](#) so that people affected by cancer can see what others in a similar situation think about a book. You can also see details of all the books reviewed in the [Book reviews listing](#), which also has links to all the reviews.

We recruit most of our reviewers through the [Volunteering Village](#) and the [Cancer Voices Network](#), people affected by cancer who have signed up to help Macmillan Cancer Support in a number of ways. Volunteers are a vital part of our book review process; since 2007, over 1,500 Macmillan volunteers have written more than 6,000 reviews of over 500 different books.

If you are a health professional who would like to review books for us, please [email Sue Hawkins](#), Information Materials Researcher, Macmillan Cancer Support.

Information and support for people affected by cancer

If you are looking for support to help you live life with cancer, you may wish to contact one of [Macmillan's cancer information and support services](#). Or you can call the Macmillan Support Line free on **0808 808 00 00** (Mon-Fri 9am–8pm). We have an interpreting service in over 200 languages. Just state, in English, the language you wish to use. If you are deaf or hard of hearing you can use textphone no 0808 808 0121 or Text Relay.

You can also email us using the [website enquiry form](#). Alternatively, [visit our website](#).

Feedback

If you have any comments, please [email Sue Hawkins](#), Information Materials Researcher, Macmillan Cancer Support.

Being told ‘you have cancer’ can affect so much more than your health – it can also affect your family, your job, even your ability to pay the bills. But you’re still you. We get that. And, after over 100 years of helping people through cancer, we get what’s most important: that you’re treated as a person, not just a patient.

It’s why we’ll take the time to understand you and all that matters to you, so we can help you get the support you need to take care of your health, protect your personal relationships and deal with money and work worries.

We’re here to help you find your best way through from the moment of diagnosis, so you’re able to live life as fully as you can. For information, support or just someone to talk to, call 0808 808 00 00 or visit macmillan.org.uk

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